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CONGRESS OF SCHOOL HYGIENE AT PARIS.

During the first half of June, 1905, a congress of school hygiene will be held at Paris. Among the interesting questions to be discussed are the sanitary inspection of primary schools, hygienic instruction in the families of school children, vacations and leaves of absence for pupils, tuberculosis in its relation to schools, and the damaging effects of the mental overwork incident to the course of study in the high schools.

Report from Turin—Reduction in death rate in the city of Turin during the past century.

Consul Cuneo reports, February 17, as follows:

The progress made in the improvement of the sanitary condition in the city of Turin during the past century is marked and instructive. There has been a steady decline in the death rate per 1,000 that is interesting and shows what can be done by skill and proper sanitary management.

The death rate per 1,000 in 1800 was 71.5. That rate has been steadily reduced, till last year it touched the low figure of 14.9 per 1,000.

The Gazzetta del Popolo of the 13th instant gives figures that I think worthy of reproduction.

As stated above the death rate in 1800 per 1,000 was 71.5. In five years following that rate was reduced to 54.6 per 1,000, while during the following year, by reason of some epidemic, the rate per 1,000 jumped to 78.9.

From 1798 to 1813 the average mortality rate per 1,000 was 54.5; from 1828 to 1837, 39.3; 1858 to 1867, 34.6; 1868 to 1877, 31.7; 1878 to 1887, 28.

The following figures, from the above journal, speak for themselves:

Year.	Deaths.	Mortality.	Year.	Deaths.	Mortality.
1885.....	6,080	22.5	1895.....	6,519	18.9
1886.....	6,025	21.6	1896.....	5,913	17.2
1887.....	6,933	24.1	1897.....	5,250	15.4
1888.....	6,416	21.7	1898.....	6,046	17.5
1889.....	6,501	21.2	1899.....	5,855	17.0
1890.....	6,497	20.6	1900.....	6,726	20.0
1891.....	6,481	20.1	1901.....	5,990	17.8
1892.....	6,792	20.6	1902.....	5,928	17.6
1893.....	6,287	19.0	1903.....	5,616	16.7
1894.....	6,301	18.8	1904.....	5,328	14.9

The authorities have made the drainage system of the city a model; the cleanliness of the city is to be admired, and by the rigid exclusion of unwholesome food from the markets it is hoped to still further reduce the death rate.

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Inspection of vessels—Proposed legislation to control the sale of drugs—Communicable diseases—Smallpox—Plague-infected rat found at Tokyo—Emigrants recommended for rejection.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, February 18 and 25, as follows:

During the week ended February 11, 1905, bills of health were

issued to 4 steamships having an aggregate personnel of 230 crew and 90 passengers. Excluding Formosa, Japan is free from cholera and plague. In some localities smallpox prevails to a limited extent. In Nishiwagun, near the town of Matsuyama, in Skikoku, 16 new cases of this disease occurred on the 16th instant. One of the Russian prisoners detained at Matsuyama was attacked by the same disease on the 15th instant.

A bill has been introduced in the Diet proposing legislation of a rather stringent character, which has for its object the more strict control by the central Government of the drug business in Japan.

During the week ended February 18, 1905, bills of health were issued to 6 steamships having an aggregate personnel of 918 crew and 856 passengers; 354 steerage passengers were bathed and their clothing was disinfected; 402 intending emigrants were examined with special reference to their freedom from any loathsome or dangerous contagious disease.

Reports of communicable diseases in Yokohama have been received at the consulate-general as follows:

For the week ended February 11, enteric fever, no cases; 1 death. For the week ended February 18, enteric fever, no cases; 1 death; diphtheria, 8 cases, 1 death.

The most important sanitary event of the week has been the discovery of a plague-infected rat in Tokyo (Fukagawa Ku). Subsequently, on the 24th instant, pest bacilli were found in five other rats sent in from the same district. The authorities, in view of the gravity of the situation, are taking prompt and vigorous measures, involving, it is stated, the isolation and disinfection of some 400 houses. The city of Tokyo has been free from human plague for a period of about two years, hence the origin of the present outbreak among rats is causing some speculation.

A case of smallpox was reported from Kobe on the 22d instant.

Emigrants recommended for rejection.

Number of emigrants per steamship *Mongolia* recommended, February 17, 1905, for rejection: For Honolulu, 6; for San Francisco, 1.

MEXICO.

Report from Monterey—Mortality and sanitary conditions during the year 1904 in Monterey and State of Nuevo Leon—Mosquitoes believed to have been destroyed by frosts—Proposed waterworks and sewerage system.

Consul Hanna reports, March 17, as follows:

Mortality, 1904.—Deaths in the State, 2,299; in Monterey, 629. Rate of mortality per each 1,000 inhabitants, 7.01; children from birth to 1 year old, 846 deaths; children under 5 years old, 1,127 deaths.

The largest death rate existed among children, most of whom were of poor families, who were poorly housed and comparatively poorly fed and clothed. The winter having been unusually cold and damp largely accounts for the high death rate among the children of that class.